

such as road signs, guardrails, rumble strips, and other safety measures.

According to a study commissioned by the American Traffic Safety Services Association, for every \$1 million invested in roadway safety, we save seven lives. Taking away the tragedy of all of those lost lives, that number, in terms of economic benefit, is \$42 million saved by saving these lives—a 42 to 1 return on our money is pretty darn good.

I applaud Chairman OBERSTAR and Ranking Member MICA for including the Highway Safety Improvement Program in their current reauthorization draft. This program saves lives, puts people to work, and strengthens America's transportation system.

I urge my colleagues to work diligently to pass a new multiyear transportation bill.

□ 1020

TAX HIKES

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it's just a few days till all taxpaying Americans will be hit with the largest tax hike in history in the wake of the longest recession since the Great Depression. Given this country's economic condition, I think a huge tax hike is exactly what we don't need. We ought to be creating jobs, boosting the economy.

Apparently, the Democrats think a \$3.8 trillion tax hike is the answer. I say make the tax rates permanent and let's get this economy moving again with new jobs and investment. Empower small businesses to grow, hire, and expand. They can add more employees, buy more equipment, and rent bigger spaces. We ought to support them by stopping the largest tax hike in history.

If we want Americans to prosper, they want, need, and deserve better than the Democrats' massive tax increases.

IN SUPPORT OF MIDDLE CLASS TAX CUTS

(Mr. PERLMUTTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, today we have the opportunity to provide tax cuts for 98 percent of all Americans—on earnings up to \$250,000. But as you just heard and as you are going to hear throughout the day, the Republicans don't want to have that tax cut for 98 percent of the people, saving them some \$2,000. They want them for millionaires and billionaires, those guys who don't need it. That's where they are going to focus their efforts, to block tax cuts for those in the middle income ranges. That's their whole purpose from this point on, is to block any action in this House or in the Senate.

The Republicans want to take care of those people who can already take care of themselves, take care of themselves very well, by giving tax cuts for millionaires and billionaires; while Democrats are going to look out for middle income earners and we are going to fight hard today to make sure there are tax cuts for those earning up to \$250,000.

Now, those tax cuts are for everybody, even the super giant wealthy, but only up to their first \$250,000 in earnings. We will work hard today to make sure the middle income earners are protected.

POLICE CHIEF HERMILA GARCIA IN MEOQUI, MEXICO MURDERED

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Chief of Police Hermila Garcia is the latest victim in the land of lawless days in Mexico. Chief Garcia was at her job only 51 days when she was brutally murdered by drug cartel assassins. In a brazen ambush, they shot Chief Garcia seven times when she was headed off to work.

So many police chiefs have been murdered in Mexico that no one wants the job. Trained officers are refusing promotions, leaving untrained citizens to run the police department. In the border town of El Vergel, two housewives are the top cops in town. In Chihuahua, the new police chief is a 20-year-old student.

There is a border war going on, and the violence will only get worse on both sides of the line of lawlessness. The rule of law is being stolen by the hand of the gun. We must help our neighbors in Mexico and also secure our border with armed National Guard troops. Otherwise, this wind brewing from the south will bring America the whirlwind.

And that's just the way it is.

PERMANENT TAX CUTS TO MIDDLE CLASS FAMILIES

(Mr. CROWLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CROWLEY. Today, the House will vote to provide permanent tax cuts to middle class American families. That means no more marriage penalty, lower taxes on family incomes, tax cuts to make college more affordable, and expand small businesses, creating jobs. All for middle class families who earn \$250,000 or less.

But the Republicans are expected to vote "no." Why? Because they say we need to provide tax cuts to the richest 1 percent in America. That's right. The Republican Party will add another \$700 billion to the deficit to assist the richest 1 percent—like Trouble, Leona Helmsley's dog, who inherited \$12 million.

Under the Republican plan, if Trouble doesn't get a tax break, no one else should. No tax cuts for hardworking families. No tax cuts for those living day by day, trying to make ends meet.

My colleagues, adding another \$700 billion to our deficit, that's trouble. Trouble for middle class families, trouble to taxpayers, and trouble to our children and our grandchildren who will be saddled with that debt.

It's clear to me, Mr. Speaker, under Republican rule tax policy will go to the dogs.

PASS A BALANCED BUDGET CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

(Mr. BUCHANAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, as our national debt climbs to \$14 trillion, on its way to \$20 trillion, I commend the President for taking on this new Debt Commission. But the bottom line is for the last 50 years, we've balanced the budget five times out of 50. If you look at 49 out of 50 Governors, they have to balance the budget. If I look at what happens in Florida, they had a \$70 billion budget 4 years ago. They've got a \$60 billion budget today. But they have to balance their budget. They've got to make the tough choices.

That's why my first week here I introduced a constitutional balanced budget amendment that says simply, we don't spend more than we take in. Small businesses, families, they've got to make the tough choices every day. We don't need to. Why? Because we have the capacity to borrow. That's got to change. Otherwise, we're going to bankrupt America.

We need a constitutional balanced budget amendment today.

PASS THE DREAM ACT

(Mr. POLIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the DREAM Act. The lives of hundreds of thousands of de facto Americans hang in the balance. The DREAM Act would provide a route for young people who were brought here, who know no other country, to take on the full rights and responsibilities as Americans.

The DREAM Act is not only a human rights issue, it's an economic issue and it's a competitiveness issue. These young people are some of our very best Americans. And it's not an American value to force the sins of the father upon the son.

These young people were brought here when they were 2 years old, 3 years old. It can't be argued that they violated the law of their own volition. They know no other country. To senselessly deport them to a country where they don't know anybody and frequently don't speak the language